

*Washington, DC* - U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-Dover) today cast his vote in favor of the most sweeping reform of American health care in our nation's history.

Congressman Hall said, "Tonight I was proud to cast my vote for health insurance reform. I am proud to stand up for those who have been mistreated by insurance companies. At long last, we are putting your health before their profits. We will no longer tolerate our fellow citizens living in fear of losing their insurance."

Congressman Hall called his vote, "the most important vote I have cast since I took office." He continued, "On a personal note, I was thinking this evening of my brother, who suffered a stroke 15 years ago. He has long since made a full recovery, but because of his so-called pre-condition, he can buy insurance only through his wife, who is therefore unable to retire. This bill means peace of mind for my brother, his family, and thousands of other people in the Hudson Valley."

Hudson Valley residents have contacted Rep. Hall's office to express support for his vote:

Fishkill resident Tom Hotaling, ACS Cancer Action Network Volunteer and Lead Ambassador, said, "I am personally gratified to see Congressman Hall stand up against the negative rhetoric and political posturing surrounding this issue, and vote his conscience in favor of meaningful health care reform for the benefit of all of his constituents, especially those who must deal with cancer issues and other chronic illnesses. Access to health care that is adequate, affordable, available, and administratively simple should be the right of every American. A vote in favor of this meaningful health care reform is the right thing to do, and now is the right time to do it. I applaud Congressman Hall for having the courage to do what is needed for the future of our country and its citizens."

Dr. Harriet Blumencranz of Goldens Bridge said, "I would like to thank Representative John Hall for his support of the health care reform bill. I am relieved to know that Americans, including those with pre-existing conditions, currently unemployed or with limited financial resources will soon have access to affordable quality health care."

Phillip Bonanno, of Cortlandt Manor, wrote, "I am a Vietnam Veteran and I want to say thank you to Congressman Hall for standing up for American families and voting for health care reform. This is a good bill for veterans – it will preserve the VA health system we have now and make sure that our families will always have access to first class American health care."

Chris Shelton, Vice President of the Communications Workers of America District 1, which includes 80,000 members throughout New York State, said, "John Hall is delivering better health care coverage and lower costs. He is standing up for working people and against the insurance companies and we commend him for it,"

Diane Scott, a registered nurse for 14 years at St. Lukes Cornwall Hospital said, "Congressman John Hall made the right decision for all working Americans. I have had patients who can't afford to buy the medicine they have been prescribed when they leave the hospital. I have had others who need several days of hospital care, but they leave because they don't have health insurance to cover the stay. Congressman Hall has taken a courageous stand for patients like these, who have been waiting for healthcare reform for far too long."

Veteran and small business owner Drew Claxton of Peekskill, said, "I am very happy that Congressman Hall is working to ensure all Americans have health care. He has always given great support to our veterans, and his vote today to ensure quality of life for all Americans is what our veterans have been fighting for."

Paul F. Ellis-Graham, President, Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation, said, "I want to express my sincere thanks to Congressman Hall for his support of the current healthcare proposal now before Congress. While the bill is not perfect, it will be a major step in the right direction for many working Americans. People without healthcare coverage will now have it, insurance companies will no longer be able deny coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, and tax credits will be given to small businesses so that can receive assistance to help their employees obtain the healthcare coverage that every American deserves."